

IN THE CLAIMS:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): An image information processing apparatus adapted to receive image information having image data and attribute information pertaining to the image data in a image file format, wherein the image file format enables storage of the image data and the attribute information at arbitrary positions in the image file, comprising:

a communication unit that receives the image information in an image file format which enables storage, in arbitrary positions, of image data and attribute information pertaining to the image information; and

a controller~~[[,]]~~that determines whether a plurality of image data and a plurality of attribute information included in the image information are arranged in a predetermined sequence based on whether an offset value of an image file directory included in a header information of the image information is a predetermined value and whether a character sequence specified by a software tag filed included in the image file directory matches a predetermined character sequence, and decompresses the image data when the image data and the attribute information are determined to be arranged in the predetermined sequence ~~when header information included in the image information indicates that a plurality of image data and a plurality of attribute information are arranged in a predetermined sequence on a per-page basis in a whole image information, decompresses the image data included in the image information on acquiring the attribute information.~~

Claim 2 (Currently Amended): An image information processing apparatus adapted to generate image information having image data and attribute information pertaining to the image data in a image file format, wherein the image file format enables storage of the image data and the attribute information at arbitrary positions in the image file, comprising:

a controller that generates the image information, wherein a plurality of image data and a plurality of attribute information are arranged in a predetermined sequence in the image file and further includes, a first information in a header information and a second information in a first image file directory of the image information, wherein the first and second information identifies the image file format of the image information as being in the predetermined sequence in an image file format which enables storage, in arbitrary positions, of image data and attribute information pertaining to the image information; and

an output unit that outputs the generated image information, wherein a plurality of attribute information and a plurality of image data of the image information are arranged in a predetermined sequence, and the image information includes header information identifying that the plurality of attribute information and the plurality of image data of the image information are arranged in a predetermined sequence on a per page basis in a whole image information.

Claim 3 (Currently Amended): The image information processing apparatus according to claim 2, wherein

said output unit exchanges negotiation information in connection with a layout sequence of the attribute information and the image data with a receiver device which receives the image information, and

said controller generates ~~the image~~ a information specifying the image file format of the image information on the basis of a result of the exchanged negotiation information.

Claim 4 (Currently Amended): An image information processing apparatus adapted to receive image information having image data and attribute information pertaining to the image data in a image file format, wherein the image file format enables storage of the image data and the attribute information at arbitrary positions in the image file, comprising:

a communication unit that ~~receives image information in an image file format which enables storage, in arbitrary positions, of image data and attribute information pertaining to the image information and that~~ exchanges, with a sender device externally connected via a network, negotiation information in connection with a layout sequence of the image data and the attribute information and that receives a information based on a result of the exchange and the image information, wherein the information is received prior to the image information and the information specifies the image file format of the image information as being in a predetermined sequence; and

a controller that immediately begins decompressing ~~decompresses~~ the image data ~~included in the image information on acquiring the attribute information,~~ when the received ~~negotiation~~ information based on the exchange indicates that a plurality of attribute information

and a plurality of image data ~~[[of]]~~ included in the image information are arranged in ~~[[a]]~~ the predetermined sequence ~~on a per page basis in a whole image information.~~

Claim 5 (Currently Amended): An image information processing apparatus adapted to generate image information having image data and attribute information pertaining to the image data in a image file format, wherein the image file format enables storage of the image data and the attribute information at arbitrary positions in the image file, comprising:

a controller that generates the image information, wherein a plurality of image data and a plurality of attribute information are arranged in a predetermined sequence in the image file ~~in an image file format which enables storage, in arbitrary positions, of image data and attribute information pertaining the image information; and~~

a communication unit that exchanges, with a receiver device externally connected via a network and is to send the image information, negotiation information in connection with a layout sequence of the image data and the attribute information and that outputs transmits the generated image information, wherein prior to transmitting the image information, the communication unit outputs a information based on a result of the exchange specifying the image file format of the image information as being in the predetermined sequence

~~a plurality of attribute information and a plurality of image data of the image information are arranged in a predetermined sequence on a per page basis in a whole image information based on a result of exchange of the negotiation information.~~

Claim 6 (Currently Amended): A computer-readable storage medium that stores a program for causing a computer to perform processes for entering and decompressing image information, the processes comprising:

receiving the image information having image data and attribute information pertaining to the image data in an image file format, wherein the image file ~~which enables storage, in arbitrary positions, of the image data and the attribute information pertaining to the image information at arbitrary positions in the image file; [[and]]~~

identifying, whether a plurality of image data and a plurality of attribute information included in the image information are arranged in a predetermined sequence based on whether an offset value of an image file directory included in a header information of the image information is a predetermined value and whether a character sequence specified by a software tag filed included in the image file directory matches a predetermined character sequence; and

decompressing the image data when the image data and the attribute information are determined to be arranged in the predetermined sequence

~~if header information of the image information indicates that a plurality of image data and a plurality of attribute information are arranged in the predetermined a sequence in a whole image information, decompressing the image data included in the image information on acquiring the attribute information.~~

Claim 7 (Currently Amended): A computer-readable storage medium that stores a program for causing a computer to perform processes for producing image information, the processes comprising:

generating the image information having image data and attribute information pertaining to the image data in an image file format, wherein the image file ~~which~~ enables storage, ~~in arbitrary positions,~~ of the image data and the attribute information at arbitrary positions in the image file pertaining to the image information;

storing ~~identifying a first~~ information ~~into~~ in a header information and a second information in a first image file directory of the image information, wherein the first and second ~~identifying~~ information indicates that a plurality of attribute information and a plurality of image data included in the image information are ~~stored~~ arranged in a predetermined sequence ~~on a per-page basis in a whole image information;~~

~~producing the image information by means of storing the attribute information and the image data in the predetermined sequence; and~~

outputting the produced image information.

Claim 8 (Currently Amended): A computer-readable storage medium that stores a program for causing a computer to perform processes for entering and decompressing image information, the processes comprising:

receiving the image information having image data and attribute information pertaining to the image data in an image file format, wherein the image file which enables storage, in arbitrary positions, of the image data and the attribute information at arbitrary positions in the image file pertaining to the image information;

conducting negotiations with a sender device externally connected via network in connection with a layout sequence of the image data and the attribute information;

receiving a information based on a result of the exchange, wherein the information specifies the image file format of the image information as being in a predetermined sequence;

receiving the image information; and

decompressing the image data included in the received image information ~~on acquiring the attribute information, when it is identified that a plurality of attribute information and a plurality of image data are arranged in a predetermined sequence on a per page basis in a whole image information through the negotiation.~~

Claim 9 (Currently Amended): A computer-readable storage medium that stores a program for causing a computer to perform processes for producing image information, the processes comprising:

generating the image information having image data and attribute information pertaining to the image data in an image file format, the image file enables storage of the image data and the attribute information at arbitrary positions in the image file, wherein a plurality of image data and a plurality of attribute information are arranged in a predetermined sequence in the image file;

conducting negotiations with a receiver device externally connected via network in connection with a layout sequence of image data and attribute information pertaining to the image information to be output;

outputting a information based on a result of the exchange specifying the image file format of the image information as being in the predetermined sequence

~~producing the image information by means of arranging a plurality of attribute information and a plurality of image data in a predetermined sequence on a per page basis in a whole image information based on a result of negotiations; and~~

~~outputting~~ transmitting the produced image information.